

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 1, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILKINSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. 485.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Harriet Crocker, widow of Edward Crocker, beg leave to report:*

That it appears Edward Crocker entered the naval service of the United States, as boatswain, on the 16th June, 1828, and continued in service until his death, 22d July, 1858.

His widow therefore prays a pension, stating that he died of disease contracted while in the line of his duty.

The records show that Crocker died on the 22d July, 1858; that he was not on the sick report of the ship, as he was on shore with his family, and attended by a physician of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Doctors Smith and McAlpine, of Portsmouth, Virginia, testify "that they attended said Crocker during his last illness; that he died of a disease contracted whilst he was attached to the United States ship Pennsylvania as a boatswain; that at the time of his death the disease of which he died (typhoid fever) was very prevalent in Norfolk and Portsmouth; and that the said ship was moored in the vicinity of these two cities."

Dr. A. C. W. Young testifies that he has attended said Crocker, and that on two different occasions "his disease was produced by exposure, contracted in the faithful discharge of his duty"—the first (in February preceding his death) for catarrhal fever, and the second in March; he was then suffering under a severe attack of disease of the liver—acute *hepatitis*; that "both of these attacks were produced and aggravated by exposure in the performance of the duties of boatswain."

Surgeon Jeffrey says: "Dr. McAlpine, a very respectable practitioner of Portsmouth, Virginia, his attending physician, states that Mr. Crocker died of typhoid fever; that the disease is a common one in Portsmouth; and I infer, from Dr. McAlpine's conversation with me, that the origin of Mr. Crocker's disease was not connected with the duties of his office, and therefore the disease was not contracted in the line of duty."

Captain Ingraham, United States navy, says that "from what I have heard of the character of Boatswain Crocker, I think his widow is fairly entitled to the pension she asks at the hands of Congress."

Lieutenant Poindexter, United States navy, addressing the petitioner under date of the 2d of April last, says: "Your husband was a most faithful officer in the discharge of his duty, and as fine a seaman as ever trod a ship's deck. It was his perfect disregard of his own comfort and health that caused him to continue on duty while sick and feeble, which he did on several occasions immediately preceding his death.

"When he joined the Pennsylvania he was not fit for duty, but he manfully did his best, and never gave up until I forced him to do so. I sent him to his home, where he could be nursed and taken care of, or he would have died in harness on board of the ship."

Upon a careful examination of the proofs furnished, your committee are of the opinion that the petitioner is entitled to relief, and accordingly report the accompanying bill.